

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVI.....No. 299

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and
Houston streets.—THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 5th av. and 5th st.—
ELLEN OGE. MATINEE.LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, No. 729 Broadway.—FRENCH
OPERA.—LA FÉRIEUSE.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
THE NEW DRAMA OF DIVORCE.UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Fourteenth st. and Broad-
way.—FRENCH ACTS.—BURLINQUE, HALLER, &c.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BALLET PAN-
TOMIME OF HUNTY DEMENTY.STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowers—OPERA
SEASONS.—POSTILLON.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
A CURIOUS CASE—A GAME OF SPECULATION.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ENGLISH
OPERA.—MARIANA.WOODS MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Perform-
ance afternoon and evening.—THE OCEANOGRAPH.BOOTH'S THEATRE, 234 st. between 5th and 6th av.—
MAGNET.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HELP—A FAVORITE
FAVORITE.ST. JAMES THEATRE, Twenty-eighth street and Broad-
way.—PRIMA DONNA FOR A NIGHT.GLOBE THEATRE, Brooklyn, opposite City Hall.—VA-
RIETY.—ENTERTAINMENT.THEATRE COMIQUE, 214 Broadway.—COMEDY VOCAL-
ISME.—NIGHT AND DAY.SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS, Hall, 385 Broadway.—
THE SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS.BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 211 st. between 6th
and 7th av.—BRYANT'S MINISTERS.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 261 Bowery.—
NEEDS FOR THE PEOPLE, BURLINQUE, &c. MATINEE.STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—MOUTON
CONCERT.PARIS PAVILION CIRCUS, Fourteenth street, between
2d and 3d av.—EQUESTRIANISM, &c.AMERICAN INSTITUTE EXHIBITION, Third avenue
and 54th street.—Open day and evening.DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 74 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, October 17, 1871.

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The Terrible Fires of the West and the Immediate and Prospective Consequences.

The appalling and bewildering calamity which has fallen upon Chicago has attracted the attention and active sympathy of the civilized world; it has, indeed, developed a universal spirit of fraternal charity never before so broadly manifested in the history of mankind. We are startled by it with amazement and admiration, as we were startled by the grand and glorious uprising of New York and the mighty North in 1861 in the common cause of the preservation of the Union. We see in the generous contributions of relief for Chicago, pouring in from high and low and rich and poor, in both hemispheres, that notwithstanding the crying evils of the times, in high places and low places, the world is really advancing toward that golden age when "the desert and the solitary place shall be made glad and the wilderness shall blossom like the rose." We have here the evidence before us from a thousand separated points, near and remote, of what in the moral world in these latter days has been achieved by the schoolhouse, the printing press, the steam engine and the electric telegraph; and our faith is greatly strengthened that through these all-powerful agents of fraternity the different nations of the earth will yet win their way to the millennium in a universal consecration of "peace and good will to men."

But while this overwhelming calamity at Chicago is the absorbing topic in the public mind, from the Golden Gate of San Francisco to the Golden Horn of Constantinople, it is but one, though the most appalling and destructive one, of the many fiery disasters of this fiery season in the West. Outside of Chicago the aggregate of human desolation and suffering resulting from these ruinous fires has been, or will be, we fear, greater than that resulting from the burning of that beautiful city, though we have reason to believe that the welcome rains have now extinguished them all. The forest fires in Michigan have been very extensive and destructive. In addition to numerous detached farm houses, with all their out-buildings, crops, stock, &c., whole villages and towns on the Lake Huron and Lake Michigan sides of the peninsula have been swept away. From the interior we have no details, but whole counties in the heart of the State are reported among the suffering districts. Equally disastrous have been the fires in Michigan, on the north side of that lake, extending thence southward into the Green Bay district of Wisconsin, of which we have already given the particulars to our readers, with the dreadful losses of life at Peshtigo and other settlements. From these forest fires in Michigan and Wisconsin the losses of life surpass the losses at Chicago, and the losses of property, involving the beggary of thousands of people, will amount to millions in money.

We published some days since reports from Minnesota of extensive fires in that State, sweeping over the prairies and through the wooded districts with resistless speed and fury, and leaving scores of families destitute in their course and flying for their lives. From Dakota we have had similar reports, and from Iowa, though the total value of the property destroyed by these Iowa and Dakota fires is comparatively small. In the splendid forests on the Canadian side of Lakes Huron and Superior these fires have been raging since July, darkening with their smoke the atmosphere for hundreds of miles over the land and water, and destroying many thousands of acres of timber, with the scattered settlements therein. An officer of a government surveying expedition in the Rocky Mountains reports that from the smoky atmosphere resulting from the fires raging in those mountain forests his observations had been retarded for many days; and a late despatch from San Francisco informs us that fires prevail in the California mountains, the whole length of the State. Nor can we omit the fact that within a month we have had similar reports from the mountains of Colorado.

The immediate consequences of these fires are the perils of destitution and starvation to the thousands of the suffering people who have escaped only with their lives—men, women and helpless children. Here is a field for Christian inquiry and charity which, even in the presence of the one hundred thousand people burned out of house and home in Chicago, should not and will not be neglected. We presume that the Michigan sufferers have obtained or will receive immediate assistance from the rich city of Detroit, and that the unfortunates of Wisconsin, wandering homeless and famishing from their homes destroyed, are being looked after by the prosperous city of Milwaukee, with its beautiful stores of breadstuffs and provisions. But our benevolent citizens of all creeds may still be called upon to aid in providing the ways and means needed to enable these homeless and destitute people of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other States and Territories to weather through the long and cruel winter that is before them. We have no misgivings, however, upon this point. Let the local authorities and communities of the districts devastated by these terrible fires make known their wants, and we repeat it, they, from all points, far and near, will be generously supplied. We know it from the universal and spontaneous relief coming in to Chicago, from the St. Lawrence, the Hudson, the Thames, the Rhine and the Danube.

We are, however, seriously concerned as to the prospective consequences of these Western prairie and forest fires. Chicago will rise from its ashes more beautiful than it was on the day which ushered in the night of its sweeping fire; new homes will be provided, we confidently hope, for the homeless people along the shores of Lakes Michigan and Huron and on the Western prairies; but it is probable that the hundreds of thousands of acres of the forests of the West swept away by these fires will never be replaced, and that their loss will be conducive to drought, famine, fire and pestilence hereafter. The section of the Continent embracing these prairie and forest fires extends from California and Oregon to the great lakes. From the great Plains westward to the Pacific the climate is dry and comparatively rainless, because, excepting the sides and depressions of the mountains in favorable places and the river borders, the country is timberless. The heavy evaporation from those tropical basins, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, are, from the immediate valley of the Missis-

sippi eastward to the Atlantic coast, almost wholly expended over the wooded section of the United States, and the basin of the great lakes. During the summer there is no local condensing atmosphere over the great Plains to bring down the rain, because those plains are timberless; and so, except an occasional summer shower, they are rainless from the passing frosts of spring to the returning frosts of autumn. It will soon be generally understood, too, that as the forests are cleared away from the head streams of the Mississippi and from the region around the great lakes the annual summer rain fall in those districts will be diminished, and the withering drought of this last summer and the present autumn, with its fearful followers—these desolating fires—will regularly return with the returning summer.

These are the prospective consequences of the continuance of these Western prairie and forest fires. Without their assistance we are clearing away our forests too remorselessly, and we have only to continue this work at the present rate of destructiveness a few years longer in order to reach the penalty of extensive droughts and wasting fires and famine from year to year. Looking to the future prosperity of our new States and Territories, the preservation and enlargement of their forests and precautions for the safety of the people concerned and their property against these prairie and forest fires, in view of this year's dreadful disasters, become subjects of the highest importance to Congress and the Legislatures of the several States directly interested. It becomes the duty of Congress to provide, as far as possible, for the security of its Territories against these annual wasting fires, looking to the maintenance of the cash value of the public lands therein and their settlement; and our Western State Legislatures have too long left their people subject to these fires from the carelessness, folly or wickedness of railway companies, settlers, hunters, emigrants and vagrants with this dangerous servant of fire.

If we know that a kerosene lamp may set a city in flames, we also know that a spark from a locomotive, or that the still flaming Lucifer match with which a woodman has lighted his pipe, if thrown carelessly among the dead leaves of a Western forest or in the dry grass of a prairie, may light a fire which will desolate thousands of square miles of territory. Our first duty is to relieve, as far as possible, the distresses resulting from these Western fires; but the next and most important duty, looking to the future, is to provide against the recurrence of these calamities in the needful legislative remedies, national and local; for "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

Disasters by Wind and Wave.

Flood and flame, storm and tornado, appear to be vying with each other in their sweep and destructiveness, not only over our own land, but in other and distant regions of the earth. The telegraph yesterday brought us intelligence of a terrible tornado which for two days had swept over portions of Canada, unroofing or blowing down houses, rocking churches and public buildings, tearing up trees and hurling them with the savageness of a flood against persons and property, and carrying terror and consternation to every heart. Montreal, Kingston and other cities are in a fright from which they suffer much more than by actual contact with the storm, and Halifax harbor has been visited by a hurricane of such violence as is seldom known in northern waters.

Turning from Canada to the far-off shores of the Celestial Empire, the Atlantic cable reports Tien-tsin, Hong Kong and other parts of that empire swept by wind and water, which leave a terrible wreck behind. In Tien-tsin ten thousand square miles have been submerged and the people are suffering greatly. In Hong Kong hundreds of Chinese have been drowned, buildings have been struck by lightning, vessels wrecked, and devastation and ruin stalk abroad. God is no respecter of persons, and His physical agents treat the Chinaman and the Anglo-Saxon alike, and the common enemy makes common friends of mankind. While we must, of course, feel a greater degree of sympathy with our own people in suffering, we must also in our measure feel for those who suffer everywhere, and especially with the Canadians and the Chinese, who will one day become citizens of the great republic.

SPANISH AGITATION FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE.—The latest cable telegrams from Madrid go to show that the Spaniards remain deeply agitated towards a change of government. They want—at least some of the most influential of their leaders want—to perfect a republic pure and simple. Minister Sagasta addressed a manifesto to the nation. In this he denounces the system of radical opposition to the government, proclaims that Cuba must be held for the Crown, and officially anathematizes the democratic movement of the hard-fisted workmen of the International Society. The radicals replied to the Cabinet declaration in a city mass meeting yesterday. The assembly was an exceedingly important one for Madrid. The leaders were outspoken in their opposition to the government and fervent in their resolve to strike hands in friendship with the Internationals and radicals in all parts of Europe. The Spanish political crisis becomes more serious every day. Amadeus may fall in the chasm which will be created by the nativist party divisions. Perhaps it would then close.

CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTIES IN AUSTRIA.—It appears from our latest news that the policy of decentralization, which Austria has been pursuing since 1866, and particularly since Von Beust became Chancellor of the empire, is in danger of falling through. The Czechs of Bohemia have demanded autonomy, and it is only a few days since the Emperor Francis Joseph publicly made it known to the Bohemians that he should consent to be crowned their King. It is difficult to believe that Von Beust did not give his consent to this policy. It is well known that he was the father of Hungarian autonomy. The disintegration policy has been a little too fruitful. The Austrian Germans are grumbling, and it is possible that Von Beust has taken fright. If Francis Joseph does not fulfil his promise to the Czechs the Austrian empire is in danger. The great trouble is that danger lies as much in the way of inaction as of action. Many thoughtful men fear, and not without reason, that the Austrian empire is doomed.

THE CANADIANS are hurrying troops to Manitoba to defend it against the Fenians. It would be better for them to leave that work entirely to United States Marshals.

REFERRING to the platform of the New York democracy, the Mobile Register finds in it nothing that may not be fully endorsed by a Southern democrat, with the single exception of the unnecessary use in one place of the offensive word "rebellion." The Register, it appears, does not like to have "things called by their right names."

Prince Alexis' Reception by the Navy.

It will be expected, of course, that Admiral Rowan and the other naval officers of the squadron at this naval station will do the best they can to entertain the Grand Duke Alexis and the Russian naval officers who come with him. Admiral Rowan and all under him must feel that they are called upon to show gentlemanly liberality to the distinguished foreigners. Our gallant fellows would feel mean if they could not do this. We have no doubt they would rather take the money for this object out of their own pockets and scanty pay than allow themselves and their country to be so humiliated. In all probability they have made suitable preparations out of their own money. But ought this to be? Ought this distinguished guest of the government to be entertained at the cost of our naval officers and out of their limited pay? The Navy Department ought to bear the expense—ought to provide liberally for the entertainment of our Russian guests while in the hands of the navy. We believe there is a contingent fund under the control of the Secretary of the Navy, and some of it should be used for this purpose. Let it not be said that the government acts meanly, while our naval officers are ready to strain their resources to save the credit of the republic for generous hospitality. Will Mr. Robeson hunt up that naval contingent fund and give Admiral Rowan and his officers a chance of treating the Russians generously without taxing their salaries for the cost? Whatever is to be done let it be well done.

The Gloucester Fishermen's War on Canada.

The Gloucester fishermen, in their efforts to involve this country so far as they can in war with Great Britain, and thereby abrogate the Treaty of Washington, have at last taken a very desperate step. A party of them, secretly organized for the purpose, recently recaptured the American schooner E. A. Horton, which was lying at Guysborough, N. S., awaiting the decision of the Admiralty Court upon charges of violating the Canadian fishery laws, and put to sea with her. Immediately an English gunboat and cutter started in pursuit, and at last accounts were still on the chase. The Gloucester men are greatly excited in view of her speedy arrival at that port, especially as a British gunboat has appeared off Gloucester to intercept her. The Surveyor of the Port at Boston has sent an American gunboat to Gloucester to look after American interests, and the good will, peace and amity so lately negotiated between ourselves and Great Britain are at the mercy of any little breeze that may blow this spark into a flame. In the meantime General Butler is lecturing on the disadvantages of the treaty, trying in his magnetic way to prepare the people for any difficulty these hot-headed fishermen may precipitate upon us. The act of the fishermen was undoubtedly a flagrant violation of our laws and of the laws of nations, and whatever the original seizure of the schooner by the British may have been, and in view of the very recent suppression of attempts to more unlawful on the part of General O'Neill and the Fenians, it would seem that the government has no course to pursue but to teach these brawny sons of the sea to have more regard for the peace and prospects of their own country, even if they must have less for their own private pockets.

The Emperor of Germany on the National Situation.

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany opened the legislative session in Berlin yesterday. He delivered an address from the throne, of which we report the main features in the HERALD to-day by cable. The Emperor was animated and decisive, both in his action and expression. He pointed to the grand results which have inured to the German nation from territorial unification. The spirit of patriotism which produced such results must not be permitted to relax until the people of the whole empire share in the profits. The treasury must be replenished and kept full. Provision must be made to cover the cost of the border adjustments with France. In view of the financial requirements France must pay up her war indemnities. Parliament will arrange and legislate the establishment of a uniform gold coinage for Germany. The foreign relations are amicable and friendly, the correspondence with Austria being of the most "cordial nature." Emperor William is not only a most powerful sovereign, but a most prudent political organizer. His present speech may be accepted as a new evidence of this fact. He closed with the words, "there is no cause for anxiety"—a very pithy but truthful expression, which must prove very grateful to his subjects.

Material Progress on the South Pacific Coast.

The latest news from the South Pacific—of which we publish a very interesting telegraph report to-day—is quite encouraging. Political excitement appears to have abated in Peru and Chile. The vast resources of both countries were being developed more healthily, railroads were at work in Chile and large amounts of valuable produce were being transported on the lines for export. Gold had been discovered in new fields in Peru. Legislative affairs and Cabinet calculations were permitted to progress peaceably in Santiago, Chile. The politicians had floated out the old rumor of coming troubles between Chile, Peru and Bolivia; but the people appear to have paid very little attention to the manoeuvre—a hopeful sign, and one more valuable than gold or silver to their country. Copper had been found in new beds near Iquique. A Cabinet had been formed in Lima, and preparations were being made for the installation of the President. Our neighbors on the South Pacific territory will come to estimate their own national interests in good time. When they do they will cease to revolutionize, and go to work.

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ENGLAND.

More Money for Chicago and Rules for the Presentation of the Alabama Claims.

An American Missionary Preaching in the Tower of London—Demand for the Separation of Church and State—An Inman Steamship Disabled.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Oct. 16, 1871.

The subscriptions taken at the Mansion House for the benefit of the Chicago sufferers amount thus far to £20,000. The Strand Theatre devoted the proceeds of Wednesday's performance to the relief fund.

The Chamber of Commerce of Sheffield has resolved to call a meeting of the principal citizens for the purpose of contributing to the relief of Chicago. A meeting for the relief of Chicago was held in the Town Hall of Liverpool to-day, at which the Mayor presided. A committee was appointed to receive contributions, and £5,500 sterling were raised on the spot.

Subscriptions which have been opened in the various cities throughout Great Britain have met with cordial responses, and the outgoing steamers from all our ports will carry large contributions both in money and material.

Taking advantage of the holiday a large meeting was held in the Town Hall of Manchester yesterday, for the purpose of raising subscriptions to the Chicago relief fund.

The Bishop of Manchester presided, and spoke in advocacy of liberal contributions in aid of the distressed city.

Messrs. Jacob Bright and Hugh Birney, members of Parliament for Manchester, and Mr. Adams, the United States Consul, were also present and addressed the meeting.

The contributions on the spot amounted to £4,000 sterling.

Besides this amount a large quantity of clothing was given.

HOW TO PRESENT THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

A supplementary edition of the London Gazette this morning publishes the British Commissioners' regulations for presenting claims to be adjudicated under the Washington Treaty for damages done by the Alabama.

AN AMERICAN CLERIC IN ST. JOHN'S, OF THE TOWER.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson, an American clergyman, preaches in the chapel of St. John, in the Tower of London.

The chapel has not been used before since the time of the Reformation.

A FINE CHURCH IN A FREE STATE.

An address has been issued by representative workmen, demanding separation of Church and State in England. The address states that meetings of workmen will be held throughout the country in support of this movement.

FATAL MARINE COLLISION.

Two steamers were in collision on the Tyne last night, and five persons were drowned.

THE COTTON SUPPLY.

The steamship Calabria and ship Queen, from Boston and New York respectively, landed 1,101 bales of cotton at Liverpool to-day.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

A Radical Revolutionist Declares Her Majesty Insane.

Demand for a Regency Preparatory to a Republic.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Oct. 16, 1871.

Mr. Bradlaugh, the radical, extremist and revolutionary agitator, attended at an immense reform meeting which was held in the city to-night and delivered one of his characteristic speeches, to the assemblage.

He declared that Queen Victoria is insane, and demanded a regency, to be entrusted to the Judges of Law and Equity, until a republic is established.

THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

Speech of the Emperor William to the Assembled Legislators.

Imperial Review of the Situation at Home and Abroad—National Economy a Necessary Duty—The War Indemnity and its Uses—No Cause for Anxiety and Cordial Relations with Austria.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

BERLIN, Oct. 16, 1871.

His Majesty the Emperor William opened the session of the Reichstag in person to-day.

The Emperor proceeded from the Palace to the Legislative Hall in state, attended by various officers of the royal household, councillors and other dignitaries.

He received with demonstrations of respectful loyalty by the people as the cortège proceeded through the streets, and cheered by the members as he entered the Parliament house.

The Emperor ascended the throne immediately and proceeded to deliver the imperial speech.

He commenced his address with a review of the past session of the North German Parliament and of the course and progress of German unification. The progress of this important policy and the present condition of united Germany he considered eminently favorable and gratifying.

Passing from this subject to the topics to be considered during the present session, he said the chief care of Parliament would be the consideration of the Budget for the support of the empire. The advances made by the several States of the German Confederation must be repaid out of the funds received from France as a war indemnity.

The Budget must include the expense of settling the government of the territory acquired from France.